• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXIV MARCH, 1957 NUMBER 3

General Counsel James H. Howard, center, examines some documents relating to the vitally-important Arizona vs. California Supreme Court suit over water rights on the Colorado River. Assisting Mr. Howard in the case are Deputy General Counsels Donald M. Keith, left, and H. Kenneth Hutchinson.

General Counsel James H. Howard Gives District Board Full Report on Progress of Supreme Court Suit

At the March 12 meeting of the District Board of Directors, General Counsel James H. Howard gave a report to the Board on the current status of the Arizona v. California Supreme Court suit over water rights on the Colorado River.

In this suit, Arizona is seeking title to 3,800,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year and asks that California be restricted to the use of 4,400,000 acre-feet per year. This would reduce California's rightful share of water from the river by about 1,500,000 acre-feet to make available a water supply for new Arizona projects not yet built or authorized.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Howard's remarks:

"After a recess commencing August 27 of last year, the trial of the case of Arizona v. California, et al., was resumed in San Francisco on February 11 of the current year. Prior to the recess, Arizona had rested her case in chief and an opening statement had been made on behalf of the State of California. Opening statements on behalf of the several defendant California agencies were reserved to be made immediately prior to the introduction of the affirmative case of the respective defendants.

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Work to Start on Forty Seven New Siphons

One of the most ambitious engineering, pipe fabrication and installation projects to be undertaken in Southern California in recent years is scheduled to get under way this summer on the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct, according to General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer.

The work will consist of the fabrication and installation of 47 inverted siphons along a 183-mile segment of the aqueduct to help bring the gigantic water supply line to its full planned delivery capacity of more than one billion gallons of water a day. The aqueduct is now delivering approximately half that amount to thirsty Southern California.

In the initial construction of the aqueduct, with a few exceptions, the siphons, which carry the water across drainage channels, canyons, desert washes and other depressions, were designed for a second barrel, the second barrel being deferred for future construction. Other portions of the aqueduct, including 92 miles of tunnels, 63 miles of concrete-lined canals and 54 miles of concrete conduits, were built to their ultimate capacity in the initial development which was completed in 1941.

In 1952, under the direction of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, the Metropolitan Water District embarked on a program to bring all of its facilities to their ultimate capacity. The District is now engaged in a $200 million expansion program which includes enlarging the distribution system; the addition of six more pumps at each of the five pumping stations on the main aqueduct (two of these six are now installed); doubling the capacity of Lake Mathews, the terminal reservoir of the main aqueduct near Riverside, from 107,000 acre-feet to 225,000 acre-feet;

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Forty Seven Siphons Soon to Be Installed

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enlarging the softening and filtration plant near La Verne; a second aqueduct to San Diego, and the construction of the aforementioned 47 siphons.

The pipe fabrication and installation work on the second barrel of the siphons will be performed by the American Pipe and Construction Company under two contracts totaling nearly $16 million.

All siphons in the first barrel of the aqueduct, with one minor exception, were constructed of cast-in-place reinforced concrete pipe. However, all 47 siphons of the second barrel will be constructed of precast, reinforced concrete pipe.

To bring the aqueduct to its ultimate capacity of 1,800 cubic feet per second, the second barrel of the siphons will have an inside diameter of 13 feet 6 inches for a portion of the siphons and 13 feet for the remainder. The pipe sections will be fabricated in 16-foot lengths weighing between 62 and 68 tons each.

Because of the size of the pipe, and the distances involved, the pipe company will erect a semi-portable field plant in the desert to produce the pipe. It first will be located near Desert Hot Springs and later at Freda Siding, near Rice.

The Southern California division shops of American are building the forms and pouring equipment for the field plant. The first location of this plant will be the one near Desert Hot Springs and will be known as the "Big Morongo plant." The first 13-foot pipe is scheduled to be poured at this plant June 3, 1957.

In December, 1957, the plant will be moved to the easterly location near Rice and will continue to manufacture the remaining joints of 13-foot pipe which are scheduled for completion by February 1, 1958. American will then pour

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Board Hears Report On Supreme Court Suit

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"It was agreed among counsel representing California defendant water users that the facts could most effectively be placed before the Court chronologically. Accordingly, the agricultural group, Imperial, Coachella and Palo Verde Irrigation Districts, whose uses of water from the Colorado River started in the last century, was scheduled to open.

"The first witness called was from the Imperial Irrigation District. In the course of his testimony, evidence was offered relating to the early notices of appropriation of water from the Colorado River, and the diligence used in furthering such appropriations. Arizona counsel objected to the admission of such evidence on the ground of lack of relevance, on the theory that all rights to the use of water from the Colorado River on the part of California water using agencies and Arizona arise under contracts executed under the authority of the Boulder Canyon Project Act, and that no right in California to the use of water involved stems from appropriation under State law . . .

"As between water users on the California side, the principle of priority was embodied in an agreement made in 1931. In that agreement the Metropolitan Water District, because of long established rights in Imperial, Coachella, and Palo Verde areas, accepted a junior position in the scale of priorities.

"The best engineering advice available indicates that, assuming the validity of the Arizona contract made in 1944, there will not be enough water in the river available for use in the Lower Basin to satisfy all contracts. In the event that water should be prorated as between Arizona and California, the Metropolitan Water District, under the California Priority Agreement, would find itself in an exposed position and would suffer loss before the senior California priorities would be called upon to participate in the deficiency . . .

"The issue of relevance of appropriative rights was debated at length. This office joined in the argument on behalf of California. The District's rights to the use of water of the Colorado River depend to a much larger degree upon storage by the United States at Lake Mead than do the long established agricultural rights. However, the District has pursued its claims under both State and Federal law and in due course will offer evidence to support rights under both jurisdictions.

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For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed March, 1957 covering District operations for February, 1957).

Colorado River—The water surface elevation of Lake Mead dropped 0.73 feet during February to elevation 1094.32, and usable storage decreased 68,000 acre-feet to 11,700,000. This is 7.26 feet higher and 662,000 acre-feet more than at this time last year. The average rate of discharge from Hoover Dam for the month was 8370 cubic feet per second as compared with 8816 a year ago and 8850 during January.

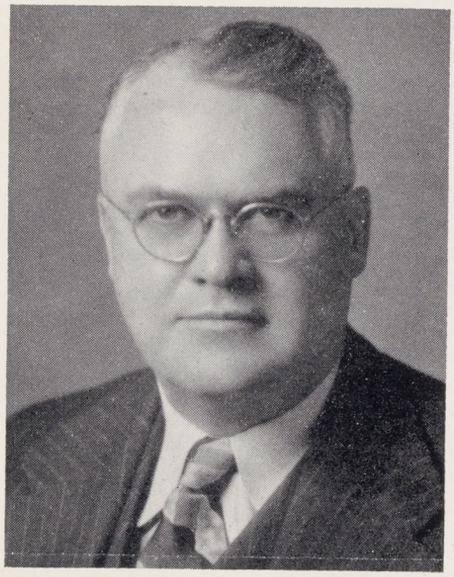
Pumping and Power — Pumping at Hayfield was continuous throughout the month on a 4-pump basis except for 23 minutes during which the operation was on a 3-pump basis. A total of 43,806 acre-feet of water was delivered during February by the Hayfield plant. The District's share of Parker energy for February was 11,887,141 kwhrs, all of which was used by the District in its own system. Peak delivery to and from Edison was 77,000 kw and 120,000 kw, respectively.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant—Colorado River water was softened from 400 to 126 ppm of hardness at an average rate of 197 cfs during February. The daily rate of flow varied from 175 to 222 cfs. The total volume of water treated during the month was 10,473 acre-feet.

Construction — Progress on construction work on the distribution system during February was as follows: Schedule 79SC and 80SC (Lower Feeder) the contracts are 73 and 72 percent complete, respectively; Schedule 61SC (West Orange County Feeder Extension) work is 99 percent complete; Schedules 58SC and 59SC (Middle Feeder) the contract is 12 percent complete; and on 59A (Middle Feeder) the contract is 17 per cent complete.

Extension of Pumping Plant Buildings—The contract is 84 percent complete and it is expected to be completed by April 30, 1957. Work at Intake is completed; at Gene plant work is 94 percent complete; at Iron Mountain plant work is 89 percent complete; at Eagle Mountain work is 88 percent complete; and at Hayfield the work is 59 percent complete.

Purchasing — There were 409 purchase orders and 3 agreements issued in the total amount of $150,996.



DIRECTOR RANSOM W. CHASE—Ten years on District Board

Director Ransom W. Chase, one of the Los Angeles representatives on the District Board, this month was presented with his 10-year service pin.

Mr. Chase is a graduate of the University of California Law School and is a member of the law firm of Chase, Rotchford, Downen and Drukker. In addition to numerous other civic endeavors, Mr. Chase is a member of the Water and Power Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

On the District Board he is Chairman of the Legal and Claims Committee and is a member of the Enginering and Operations and Land Committees.

Forty Seven New Siphons

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the joints of 13 foot-6 inch diameter pipe at this location.

Pipe laying crews will complete the installation of all siphons west of Eagle Pump Lift by the end of February, 1958. The crews will then move to the second location and complete the installation of all the siphons by December 31, 1958. These siphons vary in length from 73 feet to 15,400 feet. The longest is known as the Freda Siphon and is located near Rice.

The Metropolitan Water District's overall expansion program, as outlined herein, is scheduled for completion in 1960. The additional Colorado River water made available by this work will be enough to supply an additional 4,000,000 people in Southern California, according to General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer.

Supreme Court Suit

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"After extensive argument, the Special Master announced that he would rule on the question of relevance of appropriative rights on Monday, February 18. Pending the ruling, introduction of factual evidence was resumed, and continued through February 15.

"During the night of February 15 the Special Master was stricken by severe illness and hospitalized. However, he extended an invitation, limited to one representative of each State, party to the litigation, and one representative of the United States, to wait upon him in the hospital on Monday morning, February 18, at ten o'clock. At that time he announced that he would overrule the objection to relevance of appropriative rights, but would reserve ruling on competency of each element of evidence as it was offered . . .

"While it related only to admissibility of evidence, the ruling as to relevance of appropriative rights was the most important and far reaching as yet made during the course of the trial and will have a profound effect upon the conduct of the case in the future. If the Court accepts and adheres to the principle that first in time is first in right, the California position will be vastly improved.

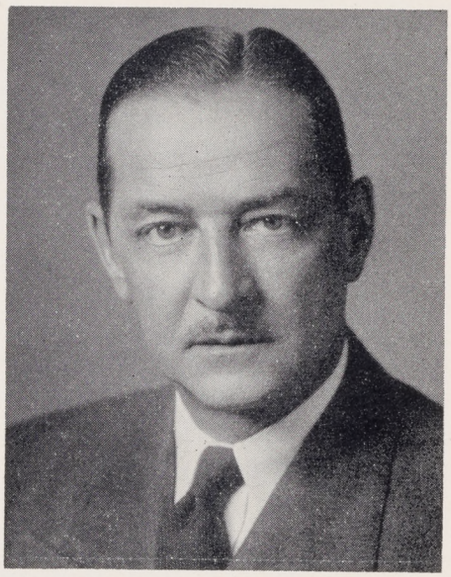
"Because of the illness of the Special Master, further trial was suspended until May 6, at which time a two-weeks hearing is scheduled . . .

"It is impossible to predict, with any certainty, the time which will be involved prior to final decision of the case by the Court . . . It may be 1960, or later, before a final decree can be entered . . .

"This office is now engaged in restudying the evidence to be offered on behalf of this District in the light of the reactions of the Court to the evidence offered so far by other defendants, and expects to be ready to proceed in May. It is, of course, possible that we will not be reached during the session to be held that month.

"Mr. Keith and Mr. Hutchinson of this office have actively participated with the General Counsel in the case and have rendered valuable services. We also have had the benefit of the counsel and advice of Mr. Frank P. Doherty.

"The case is complicated, both factually and legally. In litigation between sovereign States there are many pitfalls and hazards. There is no present reason for pessimism as to the outcome, but we are diligently avoiding the danger of overconfidence."



DIRECTOR HOWARD D. MILLS—Ten years on District Board

Director Howard D. Mills received his 10-year service pin at the March 26 meeting of the Board of Directors. He is one of the Los Angeles representatives on the Board.

Mr. Mills is a graduate of Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio, and has been a resident of California since 1924. He is Western Vice President of Lionel D. Edie and Company, Consulting Economists and Investment Counsellors.

He is presently serving on three Board Committees including Water Problems and Public Relations, Legal and Claims and Finance and Insurance.

Large Runoff Into Lake Mead Predicted

The United States Bureau of Reclamation, on March 8, issued an optimistic forecast for this year's flood runoff into Lake Mead during the April to July, 1957, period. The Bureau's forecast indicated a runoff of approximately 10,800,000 acre-feet into Lake Mead, with a possible maximum of 14,300,000 acre-feet depending upon the amount of subsequent precipitation.

The maximum runoff, of record, was recorded in 1952 and amounted to 14,064,000 acre-feet. Since the Bureau's March forecast, storms in the Colorado and Wyoming portions of the watershed have been substantial and the next forecast should show no decrease in runoff prospects for this year.

Lake Mead has a usable capacity storage of 27,207,000 acre-feet but at present contains only approximately 11,400,000 acre-feet of usable storage.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Walter (Rod) Jameson, Utility Man at Lake Mathews, and his wife, Patricia Ann, are the proud parents of a baby daughter born March 15. The young lady made her debut at Riverside Community Hospital weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces and has been named Sheri Lynn. This is the third child for the Jamesons.

* * *

The Parent-Teachers Association of the Desert Center School District met at Hayfield Pumping Plant on March 20 for a business meeting and potluck dinner. Robert (Gaby) Green, Lineman, is President of the Association and presided at the meeting.

* * *

District employees extend their sympathy to Ruby Barnhart, General Clerk in the Los Angeles office, on the recent death of her father, Fred Barnhart, who passed away March 25. Funeral services were held at Forest Lawn Mortuary in the Little Church of the Flowers with interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Other survivors include his wife, Pearl; a son, Harry; another daughter, Mrs. Mary Bowski; three sisters and a brother.

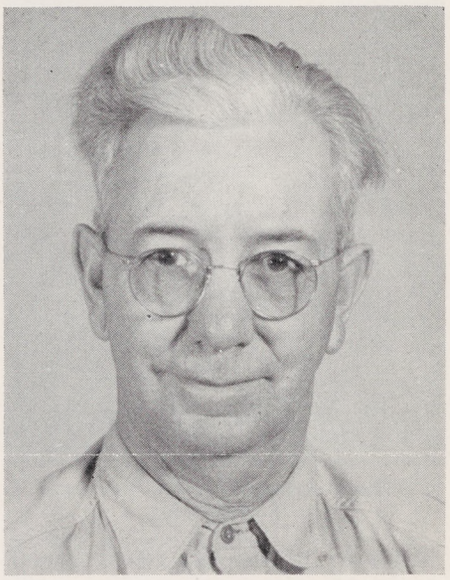
* * *

Ray Whaples, Administrative Assistant at Gene Village, convalesced in San Diego following a recent operation. He is now back on the job feeling much better.

The recently formed but highly efficient Gene Camp Emergency Squad had a chance to show what it could do on March 31, and the Squad came through with flying colors.

Dr. Carl Kane, District physician and surgeon, was attending 8-year-old Glen Evans of Parker Dam, who suffered a serious attack of bronchial asthma. Little Glen was having a great deal of respiratory trouble and Dr. Kane called for the Emergency Squad. Responding immediately were Dorothy Hines, Edna (Red) Robbins and Nellie Hedrick who administered oxygen to the youngster with the District E. and J. Resuscitator for one and one-half hours. Dr. Kane expressed his complete satisfaction with the ladies' services and young Glen is now reported much improved.

The Emergency Squad was organized and is directed by Joan Whaley, who is ably assisted by Dorothy Hines and Jackie Zans as Group Leaders. The remainder of the Squad is composed of Kathy Sullivan, Alma Parker, Viola Wenzel, Edna Robbins, Thelma Gable, Nellie Hedrick, Carol Tidwell, Lucille Graham and Ardys Stewart. The Squad has received a great deal of assistance and advice from Special Agent Dan Zans.



CLARENCE E. NORTON RETIRES

Clarence E. Norton, a Foreman on the pumping plant expansion work, retired on March 1 after completing 19 years of service to the District in various capacities on the construction and operation of the aqueduct system.

He was presented with a testimonial in recognition of his loyal and efficient service by Mr. Diemer who congratulated him upon the completion of his long period of service and assured him that his untiring efforts have been greatly appreciated.

* * *

Bill Dickens, Junior Engineering Aide, and his wife welcomed a new addition to the family on March 11 when Charles Edward was born at Garfield Hospital in Monterey Park. The young man weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

* * *

Samuel A. Wilson, Maintenance Helper at Morris Reservoir, retired from the District on March 31 after more than 20 years of service. He joined the District in 1935 and worked on the construction of the San Jacinto tunnel. After the aqueduct started operating he worked at Lake Mathews and at the F. E. Weymouth Memorial Softening and Filtration Plant. For the last nine years he has been at Morris Reservoir.

On March 15 a party in Sam's honor was held at the softening plant. Ice cream and elaborate cakes were served to the many present and former "aqueducters" who came to wish Sam well. He was presented with a transistor radio and a testimonial for his long and faithful service.

Samuel A. Wilson, center, is presented with a Testimonial by General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer at Sam's retirement party on March 15. Looking on is Fred D. Chapman, Division Foreman at Morris Reservoir where Sam worked.